

Discipleship Notes 1: July 2020

“The Faith of the Centurion”

Luke 7: 1-10

Opening Worship

Read: Psalm 119: 1-16

According to the Psalmist, what sort of character is ‘blessed’?

How can we avoid neglecting the word of God?

Welcome:

Imagine living in an occupied land. Heavily armed soldiers monitor your movements. High taxes imposed from outside have increased poverty and made everyday living a struggle. Your people are suffering. You are suffering. But at least you can still worship God. They tolerate your worship.

You hate them. You see them as the source of your national downfall and humiliation. The day will come when God will exact his revenge on them. Life is tough but you can manage things while nurturing that thought of divine retribution.

This hate is held in delicate balance. You hate them. In return, they hate you. They are your enemies. It is obvious. Until one day....

Read: Luke 6: 27-36

- Describe the command Jesus gives to his followers in verse 27. Who might Jesus’ followers have counted as their enemies?
- We are polite, respectable people! Who might our ‘enemies’ be today?
- How does Jesus ask us to treat our ‘enemies’? Why?
- Think of your circle of friends and acquaintances. Is there anyone you know who you find difficult to get along with? Are there people you find difficult to get along with at church? Is this a problem?

- Is there a 'reward' for loving our enemies? What is it?

Read: Luke 6: 37-45

- What is the command Jesus gives to his followers in verse 37? How might this be linked to the previous passage?
- We are polite, church going, respectable members of society. Who might we be guilty of 'judging'?
- How can we bear good fruit?
- List some good fruit. It might help to look up Galatians 5: 22-26
- What is the source of our good or bad fruit?

Reading: Luke 7: 1-10

- Why might Jesus be unwilling to help the centurion?
- Who appealed to Jesus for help? What was the basis of their appeal?
- Suggest why the centurion felt Jesus should not come to his house.
- Why did the centurion approach Jesus? Were their costs for the centurion? Might it have been easier to just find another, healthier, servant?
- Why was Jesus amazed?
- A crisis led the centurion to seek out Jesus' help. Why might people be seeking Jesus' help today? How can we help people encounter Jesus?

Prayer Pointers:

- Pray for our national leaders as they seek to guide us at this time.

- We pray for those who grieve and for people currently unwell.
- We pray for the staff and residents at our local care home, Austen House.
- We pray for our church leaders who have a meeting on Wednesday evening.